

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I was pleased to read in Wednesday's New York Times that my Republican colleagues are working on a prescription drug benefit that will encourage the use of generic drugs.

In January, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON) and I introduced a bipartisan bill in the House that would create a voluntary, but guaranteed, Medicare prescription drug benefit for all seniors. We call it Medicare Part D.

Under our plan, seniors would pay an affordable monthly premium, an annual \$250 deductible, and a 20 percent co-pay on the cost of their medicine. This 20 percent co-pay will truly promote the use of lower-cost generic drugs and provide real savings for our seniors.

Our bill gives seniors the freedom to choose their pharmacy and their medicines.

Madam Speaker, the Emerson-Ross bill is a comprehensive, common-sense plan. I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting this bipartisan legislation that will truly modernize Medicare to include medicine for all seniors.

TRIBUTE TO NEVADAN SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN BATTLE AGAINST TERRORISM

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize two Nevada heroes, heroes who recently lost their lives in our Nation's war to defend freedom and defeat terrorism.

Private First Class Matthew Commons is one of the most recent casualties in our war against terrorism. A graduate of Boulder City High School, Pfc. Commons was killed Monday in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan.

Last month, our State mourned the loss of Army Specialist Jason Disney. A resident of Fallon, Nevada, and a graduate of Churchill County High School, Specialist Disney was the 20th American to die in the conflict of these young heroes.

Our sympathies and condolences go out to the families of these young men. Please know that Pfc. Commons and Specialist Disney will be missed, but that their courage, valor, and patriotism will never be forgotten.

May God bless these heroes and God bless all of our fellow Americans fighting for freedom and against terror.

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise to highlight Lifetime television's campaign to Stop Violence Against

Women. This violence crosses all economic, cultural, racial, religious and educational lines. It is a multi-faceted problem with no easy solution. But prevention through education and awareness is key to ending the cycle of abuse perpetuated against nearly one-third of American women.

I will soon introduce legislation to dramatically increase the scale of intervention by urging every health care provider to screen women, age 18 and older, for domestic violence. My bill would also provide health care professionals with the training needed to assess women for signs of abuse.

In the confidential environment of a doctor's office or clinic, health care professionals would serve as a bridge to the criminal justice system. Routine screening for domestic violence would unlock options a woman may not otherwise pursue and allow her to see that shelter and advocacy services may be useful to her.

Madam Speaker, I commend all who have worked unwaveringly to bring the issue of violence against women to the forefront.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR BURMA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, for years the people of Burma have suffered horrifying brutality, torture, rape, forced labor and destruction of homes and villages. Entire communities are forced to live in hiding in the jungles without access to medical care or education for their children because the military dictatorship of Burma continues to attack villagers who refuse to allow drug production on their land or who will not bow to the illegitimate authority of the SPDC.

Approximately 300,000 Burmese are now refugees in Thailand, Bangladesh, and India. When Rev. David Eubank visited with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League of Democracy in 1997, she suggested inviting churches from around the world to pray for the people of Burma.

Since then, people from all faith backgrounds around the world now join each March to pray for peace for the people of Burma.

Madam Speaker, I urge the American people and this body to join me in praying for freedom and peace for the people of Burma.

MOURNING ARI HALBERSTAM

(Mr. WEINER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, today is the twenty-third of Adar, 5762 on the Jewish calendar, the Yahrzeit, or anniversary, of the passing of Ari Halberstam. It was 8 years ago today that he died as a result of wounds suf-

fered in a terrorist attack on the Brooklyn Bridge March 1, 1994.

America awakened to terrorism on September 11, but for years there were Imams in mosques in the United States, who were inciting hatred and glorifying terrorism. For years, there were voices trying to bring this to our attention, one of the loudest of which was Deborah Halberstam, the mother of Ari. When she was told that her son's death was a result of simple road rage, she refused to let the authorities whitewash history. It was not just because of her son, it was because she realized back then what so many of us did not realize until September 11, that terrorism can happen in the United States and that, unless we are willing to confront terrorism, we are doomed to see it happen again.

On December 5, 2000, the FBI finally classified Ari's death as a terrorist incident. While it was heartening to see that they had abandoned their dogmatic view, this was a hollow victory. For 6 years, the FBI did not admit what it truly was. So today, as the candles burn in honor of Ari Halberstam, let us pause to remember the boy who was taken from us and let us stop to think of the lessons we should learn and let us pray that we have the wisdom to prevent attacks such as these from happening again.

CONGRESS PRAYS FOR MARTIN AND GRACIA BURNHAM

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, today marks day 285 that Martin and Gracia Burnham have been held captive by Muslim terrorists in the Philippines.

Yesterday, in a video made by the Abu Sayyaf group, the Muslim terrorists, they confirmed their direct connection to the al Qaeda. Martin Burnham was forced to read a statement of grievances by the Muslims. The terrorists, through Martin, said they were targeting Americans and Europeans.

Martin and Gracia are innocent Americans, God-fearing people who are simply trying to make the world a better place. In a recent letter from Paul and Oreta Burnham, Martin's parents, they wrote, "We pray that we will soon be able to pass on to you good news of Martin and Gracia's release, but until then continue praying and believing God will see their release and being reunited again with their family."

At a time when the Nation is directly confronting terrorists in Afghanistan, contending with recession and unemployment and quietly fearing an additional attack, it would be easy to lose faith. I encourage our citizens to look at the strength exhibited by the Burnham family. Their plight is grave, but their enduring optimism and faith in God is a beacon of hope for us all.